

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of July 7, 2006 has been carefully considered. Claims 2-7 are pending in the present application with claims 5 and 7 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 7 has been amended in order to further clarify the features of the present application.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In particular, the Examiner contends that there is no antecedent basis for the limitation “at least one of said projections” in claim 7. It is believed that the changes to claim 7 made herein correct this error. Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 7 and the rejection of these claims was based this dependency.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vignotto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,927,820. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner contends that Vignotto et al. discloses substantially all of the features of claim 7 of the present application. In particular, in response to the amendment to claim 7 made in Applicants’ previous Response, the Examiner contends that the element 26 of Vignotto et al. corresponds to the claimed “projection having a hole therethrough.” The Examiner argues that element 26 of Vignotto et al. is integrated with the fixed part 13 of wheel bearing 3 and includes a hole 36/37 therethrough. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Vignotto et al., the element 26 is an applied element that is connected to the flange 13. The applied element 26 and the flange 13 are then connected to the suspension member via the pin 38.

However, Vignotto et al. does not disclose “at least one projection, integrated with at least one of the fixed part of the wheel bearing, the wheel carrier and the connecting elements,” as is required in claim 7 of the present application. The applied element 26 is not integral with the flange 13. Indeed, as is suggested by its name, the applied element 26 is applied, or added, to

the flange 13. Thus, the applied member 26 is not integrated with a fixed part of a wheel bearing.

Further, the applied element 26 does not have a hole formed therethrough. As is described at Column 2, lines 45-55 of Vignotto et al., the inner edge of applied element 26 and the outer edge of the flange 13 include opposing grooves 35, 36, respectively, such that when they are positioned adjacent to each other, an opening is formed for the pin 38. However, there is no disclosure in Vignotto et al. of any hole being formed through the applied element 26.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7, and the claims depending therefrom, including claims 2-4 and 6, are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 5 is allowed.

In light of the remarks and amendments made herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 are patentable over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 28, 2006:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

November 7, 2006

Date of Signature

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